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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/853,286	05/10/2001	Anthony Claiborne	INFS115947	5860
26389	7590	03/20/2006		
CHRISTENSEN, O'CONNOR, JOHNSON, KINDNESS, PLLC 1420 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 2800 SEATTLE, WA 98101-2347			EXAMINER	
			LASTRA, DANIEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3622	

DATE MAILED: 03/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/853,286	CLAIBORNE, ANTHONY	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	DANIEL LASTRA	3622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/21/02</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-28 have been examined. Application 09/853,286 (System and method for aggregating and distributing electronic coupons) has a filing date 05/10/2001.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Narayan (US 2002/0138348).

As per claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 21, 23 and 24, Narayan teaches:

A method for providing a computer-based forum for exchanging electronic coupons, the method comprising:

providing a forum database of a plurality of electronic coupons (see paragraph 172);

transmitting a description of at least one first electronic coupon from the forum to a client computer (see paragraphs 172-191);

receiving by the forum a signal indicative of a client selection of the at least one first electronic coupon (see paragraphs 172-191); and

in response to the signal, performing an exchange of electronic coupons, wherein the exchange includes the receipt by the forum from the client computer of data representing a second electronic coupon in trade for the receipt at the client computer of data representing the first electronic coupon (see paragraphs 172-191).

As per claims 2, 8, 14, 20, 22 and 25, Narayan teaches:

The method of Claim 1 further comprising, verifying the validity of the second electronic coupon (see paragraphs 124-135).

As per claims 3, 9, 15 and 26, Narayan teaches:

The method of Claim 2, wherein verifying the validity of the second electronic coupon comprises:

transmitting data related to the second electronic coupon to an issuing server (see paragraphs 124-137);

and receiving a response from said issuing server indicating whether the validity of the second electronic coupon (see paragraphs 124-137).

As per claims 4, 10, 16 and 28, Narayan teaches:

The method of Claim 2, wherein verifying the validity of the second electronic coupon comprises, comparing the second electronic coupon to a valid electronic coupon stored in a coupon database (see paragraphs 124-135).

As per claims 5, 11 and 17, Narayan teaches:

The method of Claim 1, further comprising, removing user data from the second electronic coupon (see paragraphs 77-78).

As per claims 6, 12 and 18, Narayan teaches:

The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether to exchange the at least one first electronic coupon for the second electronic coupon and if a determination is made to exchange, performing an exchange of electronic coupons, wherein the exchange includes the receipt by the forum of data representing the second electronic coupon in trade for data representing the first electronic coupon (see paragraphs 172-191).

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL LASTRA whose telephone number is 571-272-6720 and fax 571-273-6720. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ERIC W. STAMBER can be reached on 571-272-6724. The official Fax number is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jl
Daniel Lastra
December 3, 2005


RAQUEL ALVAREZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER